The A. F. of L. Weekly News Service gives news accounts and editorial interpretations of matters affecting labor economically in the industrial, legislative, and judicial fields, and contains other information of benefit to the trade union movement.

# AMERICAN FEDERATION OF LABOR

WEEKLY NEWS SERVICE

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Write Your Senators And Congressman To Fight Anti-Labor Bills

WHOLE NO. 1889 | WILLIAM GREEN, President | WASHINGTON, D. C. TUESDAY, JUNE 24, 1947 | GEORGE MEANY, Secretary-Treasurer | VOL. 37, NO. 25

## Lea Act Regulating Broadcasting Industry Upheld by Supreme Court

Washington, D. C.—The Supreme Court, in a 5-3 decision, ruled that the Lea Act, regulating practices in the radio broadcasting industry, is constitutional.

The constitutionality was tested by the American Federation of Musicians which struck against WAAF in Chicago when the station refused the union's request to hire additional record librarians. Officials of the station contended that the employes were not needed to carry on its business. Mr. James C. Petrillo, president of the union, called a strike and picketing of the station in a test case. Federal Judge Lahey in Chicago upheld him and ruled the law unconstitutional.

The Supreme Court decision merely affirmed the authority of Congress to pass the Lea Act. It left to the United States Attorney in Chicago to determine whether Mr. Petrillo should be prosecuted under the law.

In overruling the Chicago Federal Court, Justice Black, speaking for the majority, said that it was not necessary for Congress to prohibit "all [practices within its power to prohibit" in order to legislate against some practices. It had been charged by the union that the act unconstitutionally singled out broadcasting employes for regulation while leaving other classes of workers free to engage in the practices forbidden radio workers.

The provision of the Lea Act which Mr. Petrillo's union defied which violating states that it shall be unlawful to force a broadcaster to employ "any person or persons in excess of the number" of employes needed by such licensee to perform actual services.

Justice Black admitted that Congress might have been clearer and more precise in expressing what it meant by "number of employes needed." But in his opinion the law was clear, suggested, he said, adding:

"The language here challenged conveys sufficiently definite warning as to the proscribed conduct when measured by common understanding and practices. The Constitution requires no more."

Justice Reed, in a minority dissent concurred in by Justices Murphy and Rutledge, agreed with the union and the lower court judge in the belief that the law was "so indefinite in its description of the prohibited acts."

Mr. Reed concluded that the purpose of the act should be declared invalid on the principle that criminal statutes must be so explicit that intelligent men may know that acts of theirs will jeopardize their life, liberty or property."

## Taft-Hartley Bill Enacted By Senate 68-25 Vote; Green Announces New AFL Drive To Repeal Law

### The Roll Call Vote

*Washington, D. C.—The vote by which the Senate overrode President Truman's veto of the Taft-Hartley Bill follows:*

FOR OVERRIDING—68

**Republicans—45**

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Aiken | Dworshak | Reed |
| Baldwin | Eaton | Revercomb |
| Ball | Ferguson | Robertson (Wyo.) |
| Brewster | Flanders | Saltonstall |
| Bricker | Gurney | Smith |
| Bridges | Hawkes | Taft |
| Brooks | Hickenlooper | Thye |
| Buck | Ives | Tobey |
| Bushfield | Jenner | Vandenberg |
| Butler | Kem | Watkins |
| Cain | Knowland | Wherry |
| Capehart | Lodge | White |
| Capper | McCarthy | Wiley |
| Cooper | Martin | Williams |
| Cordon | Millikin | Wilson |
| Donnell | Moore | Young |

**Democrats—20**

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Byrd | Hoey | Overton |
| Connally | Holland | Robertson (Va.) |
| Eastland | Maybank | Russell |
| Gillette | McClellan | Stewart |
| Green | McKellar | Tydings |
| Fulbright | O'Conor | Umstead |
| Hatch | O'Daniel | |

AGAINST OVERRIDING—25

**Republicans—3**

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Langer | Malone | Morse |

**Democrats—22**

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Barkley | Kilgore | Myers |
| Chavez | Lucas | O'Mahoney |
| Downey | Magnuson | Pepper |
| Ellender | McCarran | Sparkman |
| Hayden | McFarland | Taylor |
| Hill | McGrath | Thomas (Okla.) |
| Johnson (Colo.) | McMahon | |
| Johnston (S. C.) | Murray | |

*Senators Wagner and Elbert D. Thomas did not vote but were announced as being against overriding. Senator Wagner was prevented from voting by illness and Senator Thomas is in Geneva, Switzerland, attending the International Labor Conference.*

### Green Hits Congress

President William Green of the American Federation of Labor announced that the AFL will undertake an immediate drive for the repeal of the new anti-labor law. He said:

"Congress has made a tragic mistake by enacting the Taft-Hartley Bill over the President's veto.

"The new law will not promote industrial peace. On the contrary, it will force widespread warfare.

"The consequences are likely to be heavy and costly in terms of reduced production. The chaotic conditions produced by the Taft-Hartley Act will endanger our national economy.

"Labor will never become reconciled to this law. The free working men and women of our country will never acquiesce in the abridgement of their fundamental rights and freedoms.

"The American Federation of Labor will launch an immediate campaign for the prompt repeal of the Taft-Hartley Act. We believe that the law will prove such a boomerang that its sponsors and supporters will be voted out of office by the American people next year."

### AFL Chief Predicts Political Defeat Of Sponsors

Washington, D. C.—The Taft-Hartley Act, acknowledged to be the most drastic and anti-labor club in modern American history, became the law of the land when the Senate voted to override President Truman's veto by 68 to 25.

AFL President William Green immediately announced that a drive will be launched for the prompt repeal of the law.

Warning of the grave consequences of this repressive legislation, Mr. Green predicted it will prove such a boomerang that its sponsors and supporters "will be voted out of office by the American people next year."

Mr. Green declared that the enactment of the Taft-Hartley Bill over the President's veto in the face of his solemn belief that it will do serious harm to our country,

"is a critical period in our history and any measure which will increase the spirit of disunity will render a distinct disservice not only to this nation but to the world.

"I want you to know that such would be the result if the veto of this bill should be overriden.

"I want you to know you have my unqualified support, and it is my fervent hope that you, and your colleagues will be successful in your efforts to keep this fall from becoming law."

In the face of a message from the President of the United States and a brief, but moving, tweety Democratic Senators—every one of them from the South—voted along with the Republicans to override. Only three Republicans joined with 22 Democrats who stood up to sustain the veto. ...

The provisions of the bill—the amendments to the National Labor Relations Act and the creation of a new Federal Mediation and Conciliation Service—are known to all U. S. Conciliation Service—will not go into effect until sixty days. The rest of the Taft-Hartley Act becomes effective immediately.

Among these provisions are:

1. Limitations on strikes. Strikes or threatened strikes which are held to imperil the national health or safety may be banned by court injunctions for a "cooling off" period during which a board of inquiry will investigate the dispute and the workers will be polled on acceptance of the employer's last offer of settlement.

2. Restrictions on administration of health and welfare funds and regulations governing welfare funds.

3. Banning of strikes by Government employes.

4. Appointment of a Congressional committee to study and study the causes of labor-management disputes and to recommend legislation, but actually to serve as a Congressional watchdog of the administration of the new law and to assure its harmful enactment.

The latter point was made evident when Senator Taft defended that his preference for the chairmanship of the committee go to Senator Ball, who consistently advocated even tougher amendments to the Taft-Hartley Act.

A further Congressional checkmate is provided in the expansion of the National Labor Relations Board by the appointment of two additional members. These appointees must be confirmed by the Senate and the Taft-Hartley Act specifically stated notice that it will not confirm anyone who does not meet its reactionary standards.

### Green Supports Ives-Chavez Anti-Discrimination Bill

Washington, D. C.—AFL President William Green, testifying before the Senate Committee on Labor and Public Welfare, gave strong support to the Ives-Chavez Bill to prohibit discrimination in employment because of race, religion, color, national origin or ancestry.

Declaring that discrimination is subversive to the true practice of democracy in a free society, Mr. Green said:

"We consider the enactment of this measure a matter of far reaching national and indeed international importance. America's ideals of freedom and democracy are being pitted against world-wide influences of dictatorial oppression. The communist dictatorship, which offers no freedom and no opportunity to anyone, attempts to appeal to oppressed minorities. This Ives-Chavez measure must be considered realistically.

"Only a people who make up our great nation, means more to us than strength through military weapons. Even with the most powerful of weapons, a free people will still be powerless against a subtle subversive attack upon our way of life and our institutions. It is the clear duty of the Congress to preserve the great and numerous minorities among us that the whole people of the United States stand individually in their purpose to make real equal opportunity for all and to the full fruits of their labor and through their participation in democracy to be equally their full share in the American standard of modern living."

## Jobs, Earnings At Record Levels

Washington, D. C.—The Bureau of Labor Statistics reported high levels for production and employment with no down-turn in sight. Employment for May held steady at record levels and weekly earnings in manufacturing industries reached an all-time high.

On the basis of preliminary data it was estimated that weekly earnings in May averaged $48.86, compared with $47.50 in April. The average work week was down to 40.6 hours compared with the wartime average of 45 to 47 hours. Hourly earnings were estimated at $1.21 in May, compared with $1.186 in April.

Ewan Clague, Commissioner of Labor Statistics, said "the two fields of activity which are currently the most vulnerable—construction and the textile and clothing groups—again showed the usual seasonal changes in May. Sustained demand for labor, arising from continued strength of consumer income and expenditures as well as from seasonal expansion in outdoor work, therefore was sufficient to offset the slight edging off which occurred in a number of manufacturing industries.

"Consequently, for the third successive month, the total of wage and salaried workers in non-farm jobs stood firm at the record level of 42,000,000 after allowance is made for work stoppages. Unemployment, at the same time, fell to less than 2,000,000, equalling the post-reconversion low established in May.

"The seasonal pick-up in construction which began last March will continue throughout the summer months," Mr. Clague said, "but construction employment will fall considerably short of the record which had been established in April, building activity flattened out much sooner than expected, 1947 will still be one of the best construction years in our history."

## House Freezes Tax For Social Security

Washington, D. C.—The House passed unanimously a bill to freeze the social security payroll tax at 1 percent until 1950. Rep. Reed (R., N. Y.), predicted it is "the last freeze" of the present rates that Congress will approve.

The measure will block a two-billion-dollar increase in the social security levy beginning next January 1 if passed by the Senate and signed by President Truman. The bill provides increases beginning in 1950.

Under the law, the security tax level would jump automatically from 1 percent against employes' wages to 1½ percent; payroll taxes 2.5 percent against each starting the first of next year.

The bill would cost the trust fund about $1,000,000,000 annually and has accumulated $12,700,000,000 in the social security trust fund.

The "freeze" bill was passed Senate after a Ways and Means Subcommittee, of which Reed is chairman, rejected the views of the trust fund from which the Government pays old age and dependency benefits.

The new legislation provides for increases in the tax to 2 percent against wages and payrolls in 1950, and to 2½ percent in 1957 and thereafter. With the inclusion of this formula for future increases, the Republican support of both Republicans and Democrats.

The measure also continues the Federal grants-in-aid to states for public assistance, to needy aged persons, the blind and dependent children.

The maximum Federal contribution for each such grant was raised from $20 a month to $25. States also continue to match this amount.

### APPRENTICE HIRING RATE HIGH IN BUILDING TRADES

Boston.—"Of all apprentices hired during April throughout the country, one person in seven applied to the building trades," William F. Patterson, Director, Apprentice-Training Service, U. S. Department of Labor said.

This great proportion of apprentices in the construction industry is due to the need of skilled workers for the building of new homes, other building, and the heavy backlog of maintenance and repair work that piled up during the war, according to Mr. Patterson. He commended the contractor organizations and building trades unions who are cooperating to expand apprenticeship to provide enough trained workers in the future.

"The demand for young men for the large number of young men who are entering the trades is increasing the work force in the construction industry.

### SWITCHMEN ELECT GLOVER TO SUCCEED T. C. CASHEN

Buffalo, N. Y.—Arthur J. Glover, Kansas City, Mo., was elected president of the Switchmen's Union of North America, succeeding Thomas C. Cashen, of Buffalo. The union's convention delegates gave Mr. Glover a winning vote of 154 to 81.

The 42-year-old Mr. Glover was formerly the Switchmen's general chairman on the Kcik Island Railroad.

## Truman Labels Taft-Hartley Bill 'Shocking Piece of Legislation'

Washington, D. C.—President Truman, in a radio audience to the people, appealed for support of his veto of the Taft-Hartley Bill which he called a "shocking piece of legislation."

The President stated he had vetoed the measure because it is "bad for the welfare of everybody who lives in the country."

Mr. Truman hit the campaign carried on by the proponents of the bill to sell it as a "labor relations bill." He said it is not a labor relations bill at all.

"The bill is deliberately designed to weaken labor unions. When the real purpose of the bill claim that by weakening unions they are giving rights back to individual working men, they ignore the basic reason why unions are important in our democracy. Unions came into being because men, who bargain with their employers on a basis of equality, found it necessary for the living standards of our working people have increased steadily until they are today the highest in the world.

"A bill which would weaken unions would undermine our national policy of collective bargaining. The Taft-Hartley bill would do just that. It would take us back in the direction of the old evils of individual bargaining. It would take bargaining power away from workers and give more power to management.

"The bill would even take away from our working men some bargaining rights which they originally had when the Wagner Act was passed twelve years ago.

"If we weaken our system of collective bargaining, we weaken the position of every working man in the country.

"This bill would again expose workers to the abuses of labor injunctions.

"It would make unions liable for damage suits for actions which have long been considered lawful.

"This bill would treat all unions alike. Unions which have fine records, with long years of peaceful relations with management, would be hurt by the bill just as much as the low troublemakers.

"The country needs legislation which will get rid of abuses. We do not need—and we do not want—legislation which will take fundamental rights away from our working people."

The President opposed the view that enactment of the bill would promote industrial harmony. He predicted that the provisions upsetting union security clauses in agreements would hurt the peaceful relations.

"Management, too, would be hampered by the limiting and restrictive provisions of the bill, Mr. Truman said. It would pave the way for numerous law suits and would take the control of labor relations away from the collective concerned and place it under the jurisdiction of a court, he stated.

A vigorous protest was made by the President against the bill's threat to "fundamental democratic freedoms." Citing the provision which forbids a union newspaper from attempting to influence the outcome of a national election, Mr. Truman pointed out that "under this provision might be applied against any incorporated publication. This would prevent an incorporated radio station or the League of Women Voters from pursuing these activities, he said.

Mr. Truman expressed the belief that conflict would be intensified by enactment of the Taft-Hartley Bill over the President's weakening of national unity. Citing America's defense program as a basis for unity in construction, he said, "we must, at the same time, maintain a better America in which all can share equitably in the fruits of democracy. The Taft-Hartley Bill threatens the attainment of this goal."

### Long Senate Debate In Vain

Washington, D. C.—Efforts by the Republican majority to rush through a Senate vote on the President's veto of the Taft-Hartley Bill were stymied by a long Senate debate.

Determined to gain time for Mr. Truman's veto message to sink in and to permit the Senate to act on it, Senators Murray, Taylor and Johnston led the group which carried on long debate. Forced to a roll call, the Senate continued to debate the bill for some thirty hours before an agreement was reached on the time for voting.

Previous records for individual oratory were broken in turn by Senators Taft, Ball and Morse who pushed the debate session. Senator Morse, who broke with the Republican leadership over the Taft-Hartley Bill, spoke for about ten hours and still held the floor at the time the weekend adjournment was negotiated.

### AFL TAMPA LABOR PAPER BEATS DAILY ON VETO NEWS

Tampa, Fla.—The Florida Labor Leader, AFL weekly paper, scored a major triumph when its editions carrying news of the President's veto of the Taft-Hartley Bill went on sale hours before the publication of the regular afternoon daily newspaper.

Al Chiaramonte, managing editor, said that in less than an hour from the time the veto was announced his paper was on the street with a story of the veto and statements from several local labor leaders.

### SAVINGS TOTAL DECLINES

Washington, D. C.—Individual savings dropped from an abnormally high rate of $33 billion in 1946 to about $19 billion in 1946, the Commerce Department reported. The decline was attributed to price rises, increased quantities of consumer goods, expanded consumer credit and disappearance of war-time pressure for savings.

### UNIONS AND EMPLOYERS CONGRATULATE BERRY

Pressman's Home, Tenn.— Mal Hansen, Nashville Tennessean labor writer, commented.

Telegrams and letters came not only from the 600-odd local unions throughout America, but also from employing printers and publishers of newspapers and magazines, from commercial printing plants and from associations of employing printers.

### AFL Hits Farm Labor Bill; Says Conditions Deplorable

Washington, D. C.—In testimony before the Senate Committee on Agriculture, H. L. Mitchell, president of the Farm Labor Union, protested vigorously against the proposed farm labor bill. "In my opinion," he said, "the bill in its present form would merely perpetuate the deplorable conditions of farm laborers."

Condemned as legislation for the interests of the big farm operators, Mr. Mitchell urged the committee to rewrite the measure to provide a greater degree of "justice and security for those million farm laborers in the United State." He said:

"These same workers who perform one of the most basic functions in society, are now excluded from the protection of laws providing fair labor standards, social security, protection for the young, the unemployed, and the aged. Likewise, they are generally denied health, physical, and educational services which other Americans enjoy. These have been no fundamental changes in the conditions affecting farm labor since John Steinbeck wrote about the conditions affecting farm labor since John Steinbeck wrote about the conditions affecting farm labor since John Steinbeck wrote about the Okies in the "Grapes of Wrath."

In additional testimony, Mr. Walter J. Mason, AFL legislative representative, attacked another provision of the bill establishing a permanent farm labor placement service within the Department of Agriculture. He branded the proposal as wasteful duplication of facilities already available in the public employment offices of the United States Employment Service.

The bill under consideration continues the importation of foreign labor for farm work, prohibits state or federal action to establish wage rates or hours of work for farm labor, and to all intents and purposes bans voluntary collective bargaining agreements between employers and farm laborers.

### SEN. AIKEN PUSHES SCHOOL AID

Washington, D. C.—Chairman Georges D. Aiken of the Senate subcommittee on education said that a tentative agreement had been reached by his group to allow Federal aid to states on the basis of need, but would assure to all a minimum allotment of $5 a child.

### THE PEOPLE'S MANDATE

Washington, D. C.—Joseph M. Ayers, assistant White House press secretary, told the Press President received 1,000 telegrams all congratulating him on the veto of the Taft-Hartley Bill. These have been insufficient time for letters to get in, he added.

Mail and telegrams received up to the time of the President's veto message ran five to one in favor of a veto, Mr. Ayers said. He estimated that 180,000 letters, 575,000 cards and 30,000 telegrams were received.

### ILGWU Financial Report Shows Total Resources Over $46 Million

Cleveland.—General funds of the AFL's International Ladies Garment Workers Union and its affiliated locals and joint boards exceed $46,000,000, according to a three-year financial report released here at the union's convention.

In addition to the general funds, the union is the custodian of $23,978,459 in employer-contributed health and welfare funds and of $1,856,728 in death benefit funds, bringing its total resources to $46,678,318.

However, David Dubinsky, the union's president and chief executive officer, emphasized that the $46,678,318 figure must be carefully segregated into specific purposes and that it is the union's intention at the present convention to adopt constitutional changes that will bar their use for strikes or any other function of union business.

The report explained in detail how the union's money had been spent since the last convention in Boston in 1944. Mr. Dubinsky directed special attention to the expenditure of $9,017,458 on contributions to labor, philanthropic and war relief causes. Every donation of $100 or more was accounted for in the report.

A wartime gift of $75,000 to Russian war relief was recorded, but there was a conspicuous absence from the list of American organizations with pro-Communist leanings. On the other hand, organizations and publications dedicated to fighting communism in this country received substantial contributions.

Dozens of gifts were made to hospitals and educational institutions in all parts of the country, but the largest donations were made to the insurance and war relief agencies rendering aid throughout the world. Mr. Dubinsky told reporters the union planned to make further contributions similar to this work through such agencies as the Jewish Joint Distribution Committee, Italian Labor Committee and the United Jewish Appeal.

Despite the healthy financial condition disclosed in the report, the ILGWU president expressed concern that funds were not adequate in the future to meet its obligations to its own members and to the community without an increase in its per capita dues of 15 cents a month. The union had not gone up since 1924, despite the fact that the cost of living had almost doubled.

He warned that enactment by Congress of laws like the Taft-Hartley Act would necessitate a substantial increase in expenses because of the probability of prolonged and costly litigation, National Labor Relations Board elections and court injunctions.

He voiced the opinion that the sponsors of the Taft-Hartley bill were primarily interested in weakening the organized labor movement, but he said he hoped that they could thus undermine their organizational strength.

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# AMERICAN FEDERATION OF LABOR
WEEKLY NEWS SERVICE
SUPPLEMENT

WILLIAM GREEN, President — WASHINGTON, D. C., FRIDAY, JUNE 27, 1947 — GEORGE MEANY, Secretary-Treasurer

**Write Your Senators And Congressman To Fight Anti-Labor Bills**

## AFL's New Radio Series To Start July 5 Over ABC

Washington, D. C.—Beginning July 5, the American Federation of Labor will inaugurate a new series of radio broadcasts over the nationwide network of the American Broadcasting Company.

The first nine programs will originate each Saturday evening at 6:45 P.M., Eastern Daylight Time, from the nation's capital. Beginning Sept. 7, the program, known as "Labor-USA," will be shifted to Tuesday nights at 10:30 P.M. Please be certain to consult your local newspaper for the exact time of these broadcasts in your own community as some local stations may be forced by earlier commitments to re-broadcast the programs at some later time.

This is the third successive year that the American Federation of Labor has conducted the "Labor-USA" series for twenty-six consecutive weeks—the first half of the year. Each program, in the past, has consisted of a combination of news and discussion under the sub-title, "The American Federationist of the Air."

A new format will be tried out this year. The first nine programs will be devoted to round-table discussions, either of current issues in the news and unrehearsed, of major importance to the nation's welfare, or of interest to the nation's workers. If these discussions prove popular, they will be continued throughout the series.

The first forum will discuss, "What Are the Effects of the Taft-Hartley Act Thus Far?" Participants will include Senator Wayne Morse, Joseph A. Padway, Chief Counsel of the AFL, and Philip Pearl, AFL Information Director.

Make sure to listen to each of these programs to keep informed on labor news and views!

## Green Defends MacArthur's Labor Policies Against WFTU Charges

Washington, D. C.—President William Green of the American Federation of Labor defended the occupation policies of General Douglas MacArthur in Japan against charges made by Chinese and Australian delegates at the so-called World Federation of Trade Unions' conference in Prague. These delegates accused the reconstruction authorities of being "anti-labor" and of permitting the continued existence of authority by Hirohito, prewar "capitalists" and fascists.

In a formal statement, Mr. Green said:

"First-hand reports made to me by representatives of the American Federation of Labor in Japan prove there is no basis for the charges made against the policies of General MacArthur.

"The facts are clear. Eighteen months ago there were no labor unions in Japan. Today more than five million members have been organized by Japanese unions and collective bargaining is rapidly expanding to cover the vast majority of Japanese industries.

"The growth has been encouraged and fostered by General MacArthur and the Labor Division which he created to maintain a close relationship between the occupation authorities and Japanese trade unions.

"This Labor Division extends the maximum freedom of action for Japanese unions. The only restrictions placed upon them is that strikes which would seriously cripple the occupation are forbidden. Considering the fact that Japan is still an occupied country, this is a temporary restriction is understandable.

"Furthermore, General MacArthur's Labor Division is carrying on an intensive educational campaign among Japanese workers. The only ones who object to this is the sprinkling of Communists active in one wing of the Japanese labor movement.

"As to Hirohito, the new Constitution under which Japan is governed renders his office meaningless. The chief government, chosen by the voters of Japan, is generally moderate and not far from reactionary. In fact, the Japanese Diet has been expanded by war and wartime Japanese leaders were very thoroughly from their former positions of influence.

"General MacArthur's Labor Division in Japan is headed by James S. Killen, an experienced and liberal trade unionist who formerly served as an officer of the International Brotherhood of Pulp, Sulphite and Paper Mill Workers of the United States and Canada, an AFL affiliate. Short is true that inflation, critical shortages of raw materials and consumer goods and an active black market have created difficulties for the welfare of Japanese workers, but every effort is being made to correct these conditions.

"General MacArthur's Labor Division in Japan is headed by James S. Killen, an experienced and liberal trade unionist who formerly served as an officer of the International Brotherhood of Pulp, Sulphite and Paper Mill Workers of the United States and Canada, an AFL affiliate. Short is true that inflation, critical shortages of raw materials and consumer goods and an active black market have created difficulties for the welfare of Japanese workers, but every effort is being made to correct these conditions.

"The charges made against General MacArthur have no basis in fact and were inserted in the WFTU meeting for the sole purpose of encouraging Communist disruption in Japan."

# National Union Heads Summoned To AFL Parley As Green Pledges 3-Front Fight On New Law

## AFL Lawyers Plan Tests To Overthrow Labor Act

Washington, D. C.—Joseph A. Padway, Chief Counsel for the American Federation of Labor, presided at a two-day conference of lawyers representing AFL unions for consultation on the effects of the Taft-Hartley Act on labor organizations.

More than 75 lawyers, from the East, Middle West and South attended the conference. Among the cities represented were New York, Philadelphia, Boston, Baltimore, Washington, Chicago, Kansas City, Milwaukee, Atlanta, Mobile and Pensacola, Fla., Houston, Tex., Salt Lake City and Denver.

The conference was exploratory and consultative in nature," Mr. Padway explained. "We surveyed the immediate effects of the new law on labor unions and its long range impact.

"Furthermore, we obtained a consensus of opinion among the lawyers attending on which sections of the law are clearly unconstitutional so that legal contests can be undertaken without confusing the issue or delaying action.

"We were forced to go over every word of every line in this Act, and do considerable reading between the lines, in order to determine exactly how the multitudinous and tricky provisions, could be applied in the activities of labor.

"Now that the conference is concluded, a series of bulletins will be prepared and issued by the AFL unions, explaining the obligations and responsibilities which the new law imposes upon them and their members."

## Truman Finding It Difficult to Fill 3 New National Labor Board Jobs

Washington, D. C.—President Truman is having his troubles in finding anyone suitable and willing to accept appointment to the National Labor Relations Board. This situation may delay reorganization of the NLRB for at least two weeks.

Under the new Taft-Hartley Act, the present board must be expanded by two new members. Furthermore, a general counsel, with autonomous position and enormously important powers, must be named. All three are subject to Senate confirmation.

The President's problem in finding a chief counsel to succeed G. P. Van Arkel, who resigned in protest over the law, and in appointing new members has seemed to be far too many possible candidates hold critical views of the wisdom and practicability of the law.

Many men of national stature in the labor field, available either for board members or for general counsel, have publicly stated their extreme dislike and distrust of the new law, included in this category are at least five former public members of the War Labor Board—Lloyd K. Garrison, Dean of the Wisconsin Law School; Nathan Feinsinger and George W. Taylor.

Such a statement has also been made publicly by Frank P. Graham, former NLRB member.

The President's choice of the board discussed the problem with President Truman. Among possible appointees mentioned at the meeting, it was learned, were former Governor Robert LaFollette, and Joseph Miller, recently special labor relations assistant to White House Advisor John R. Steelman.

The biggest question about LaFollette is whether he would accept the post.

Another appointment which the Senate must make is that of director of the new Federal Mediation and Conciliation Service. It becomes operative in 60 days, taking over the functions of the Labor Department Conciliation Service.

## Rabbi Denounces Taft-Hartley Law As Setback to Progressive Action

New York City—Rabbi Israel M. Goldstein, president of the American Jewish Assembly of America, said the enactment of the Taft-Hartley Bill is a "regressive step" in labor legislation in behalf of the common man.

Speaking before the Assembly's annual convention, he said:

"While economists may still debating the question, as to whether a recession is on its way, my religionists can say that in the field of progressive legislation the belief the economic man the recession has already arrived.

"This is attested to by the failure of Congress to pass extensive and effective rent controls and especially by the passage of the Taft-Hartley Bill, which strikes an unfair blow at the American labor movement and at American democracy which produced it.

"The economic royalists so severely castigated by the late President Roosevelt and driven by him from the temple of American Government are now setting up false thrones in the halls of American democracy.

"It becomes the task of the Assembly, indeed it is the responsibility of all religious leaders, to lift our voices and spare not" and to proclaim in season and out the message of social and economic and racial justice.

"We must speak out, not in generalities, but in terms of concrete action, by the pointing of the finger at the evils of the day. We must therefore ever be sensitive to economic and social conditions and we must keep ourselves informed about the facts that make for controversies and be informed and we must guide them in right social attitudes."

## CALIFORNIA LABOR EDITORS PLAN PRESS CONFERENCE

San Francisco, Calif.—Representatives of AFL Councils publishing newspapers in California, meeting to organize the Northern California AFL Labor Press Conference, elected:

Jimmy Hicks, editor of the Sacramento Valley Union Labor Bulletin, was elected chairman, and Al Rodgers, editor of the East Bay Labor Journal, was elected Secretary-Treasurer.

The officers of the conference were instructed to recommend that a similar organization be set up in southern California, with a view to holding a statewide conference and working out means of strengthening the AFL press throughout the state.

## BUILDING TRADES WORKERS IN SOUTH WIN PAY BOOST

Atlanta, Ga.—Building trades workers here won a series of pay boosts in peaceful negotiations that belie the need for crippling antilabor legislation, the Georgia Federation of Labor has declared.

Under the new agreement, some 2,100 carpenters will receive $1.40 per hour effective July 1, instead of their current $1.25. Painters' pay rates will be raised from $1.40 to $1.62½ an hour with similar hikes in store for members of related crafts.

Effective September 1, stonecutters workers will receive a 5c hourly boost while electrical workers will receive 10c an hour more including six paid holidays a year.

## UNION DISMISSES OFFICER FOR COMMUNIST LEANINGS

Philadelphia.—The Upholsterers International Union (AFL) dismissed Peter J. Warhol, Minneapolis labor official, from membership on charges he violated a union by-law prohibiting membership Communist principles.

The executive board of the union affirmed unanimously the findings of a three-man trial board which heard Warhol's case in Minneapolis, April 18, 16 and 17.

The union by-law states that no Communist, Fascist or Nazi, a believer in their principles, practices or theories may hold office.

At the Minneapolis trial, International President Sol B. Hoffmann, who is also president of the AFL building union by-law barred Communists from office, "because we know that Communists are agents of the Soviet government."

## BUILDING WORKERS GET RAISE

San Francisco, Calif.—Carpenters, lathers, laborers, cement finishers and operating engineers here won a 10c hourly raise from the Associated General Contractors in 46 California communities.

Carpenters in 42 counties, however, have rejected the offer and in San Francisco, Palo Alto, Alameda and Marin counties they are continuing to negotiate for a 20c raise. Independent contractors in Contra Costa county have already signed with the carpenters for 20c, and with laborers and teamsters for the same amount.

## Lawyers to Profit From Labor Law

Philadelphia.—Philip Hannah, Assistant Secretary of Labor, told members of the Upholsterers International Union the "only group to profit" from the Taft-Hartley labor act would be lawyers.

"I fear that the courts will be swamped with suits," Hannah said at a dinner in the Benjamin Franklin Hotel honoring Sol B. Hoffmann, Philadelphian, who is the union's national president.

"Labor and management will suffer from the enforcement of numerous of its provisions, and the cause of genuine collective bargaining which has progressed so far in the last century will be retarded, consequently even disrupted."

Hannah said the law would be "extremely difficult" to administer and that it will be "months" before the Labor Department's lawyers can decide "what it means to the Secretary of Labor."

He praised the union for its long fight against Communists and Fascists.

## MEAT CRISIS THREAT TO BUYER'S PURSE

### *Taft Says 'No Chance' For Readoption of Price Control*

Washington, D. C.—The Nation faces another serious meat shortage this Summer, due to drive prices upward to unprecedented heights, Flood damage in the corn belt is adding to the already developing shortage.

An indication of the seriousness of the situation is the statement of Edward A. O'Neal, conservative president of the American Farm Bureau Federation, before a joint congressional committee. At best, he declared, the country may have to adopt "voluntary meat rationing" and might even be required to return to price control.

To this, Senator Robert A. Taft promptly replied, "Not a chance."

The Senate Republican leader declared "the law of supply and demand will help keep a kind of ceiling over" prices of meat. "That would help less," he added, "And we can do something else about it."

The meat shortage crisis was intensified by the disastrous corn crop. Chicago reports said that for the first straight day the average quotation on the Chicago Board of Trade exchange broke previous records set in 1919.

With prospects of a small corn crop due to heavy flood damage, the price situation for meat is extremely acute. The sharp increases on the corn exchange may be the signal for a new level within a few months.

Reports predict that the high corn prices will cause housewives to pay more for their pork. Farmers will find it more profitable to sell their corn at present high prices than to use it to fatten hogs for later marketing. The result will be a drop in pork on the market at considerably higher prices than now.

## TEACHERS GUILD REELECTS SIMONSON AND LEFKOWITZ

New York City—Mrs. Rebecca C. Simonson and Abraham Lefkowitz were returned to their posts as president and executive secretary, respectively, of the New York Teachers Guild (AFL) following annual election results made public.

Mrs. Simonson, who entered her six-teenth year as the organization's President, is an elementary school teacher at P.S. 61, Bronx; Dr. Lefkowitz, principal of Samuel J. Tilden High School, has been the Guild's legislative representative since he helped found the organization 21 years ago.

The Guild announcement claimed importance of its membership locally, and nationally in the American Federation of Teachers, during the past year "one of the most stormy and fruitful in the history of teacher unionism."

## UNION SUPPORT FOR VETERAN WINS JOB REINSTATEMENT

Chicago—The Brotherhood of Railway Clerks won a victory for an exserviceman when it took his case to the National Railroad Adjustment Board. Not satisfied with the refusal of the Gulf Coast Lines to reinstate the veteran by his former position as secretary to the carrier's senior executive, the union took up the cudgels for him and pressed the case to a satisfactory conclusion.

The board, covering the rights employed by the road, awarded the veteran $1,600 back pay and ordered him reinstated in his former position.

## Emergency Conference Set For July 9 After Executive Council Members Survey Effects of Taft-Hartley Act

Washington, D. C.—Pledging a three-front offensive against the unjust and oppressive provisions of the Taft-Hartley Act, AFL President William Green summoned an emergency conference of the officers of all 106 affiliated unions in the nation's capital July 9.

This decision was taken after a special meeting of the resident members of the Executive Council at which Joseph A. Padway, AFL's Chief Counsel, outlined the drastic effects of the main provisions of the new law.

"We will carry on the fight against this terrible legislation just as vigorously as when it was pending before Congress," Mr. Green told a press conference.

"We are going to fight it in the courts.

"We are going to fight to protect the rights of our members in contract negotiations with employers.

"And we are going to organize politically to defeat every member of Congress who voted for this law."

Attending the Council meeting along with Mr. Green were Vice Presidents John L. Lewis, Harry C. Bates, G. M. Bugniazet, William C. Doherty and Secretary-Treasurer George Meany.

Later, Mr. Green told newsmen that the AFL does not intend to form a political action committee, such as the CIO's, although "our objectives probably will be parallel."

He announced a widespread "rank-and-file" protest and revolt against the Taft-Hartley Act, culminating in repeated demands for a general, nationwide strike.

This the AFL will not authorize, Mr. Green emphasized. He said:

"Such action is not advisable. I am responding to all appeals for a general strike with instructions to exercise restraint in this emergency. Otherwise thousands of damage suits could be invoked against unions in the courts and injunctions issued in every state and locality."

In this respect, Mr. Green anticipated an appeal from President Truman urging labor and management to "exercise patience and moderation" in settlement of disputes during the major change made necessary by the new law.

The President, who had declared in his veto message that the Taft-Hartley Act was bad legislation and unworkable, nevertheless promised in a public statement that "insofar as it lies within my power as President, I shall see that this law is well and faithfully administered."

This statement was considered an official attempt to silence critics among the reactionary groups who have widely voiced the opinion that the Truman Administration would try to sabotage the operation of the law. Such hints were interpreted to informed circles as an advance alibi for the failure of the law to deal effectively with labor-management problems.

Mr. Green said at his press conference that there were two major reasons for calling the special conference of officers of all national and international unions.

"First," he said, "there exists a great deal of confusion throughout the trade union movement on what the Taft-Hartley Act means, how it applies to unions and what they can do and cannot do under the law.

"It will be our purpose at the meeting to present full and accurate information covering these points and to provide answers to all questions which may occur to our union officials.

"The national and international unions can, in turn, convey this information to their local unions or to the delegates in attendance at their conventions this summer and fall.

"Then there is a second and equally important objective. We must form a clear-cut policy on how to deal with this legislation and how to combat it. Through this meeting, we hope to obtain uniform action, instead of individual and contradictory action."

Mr. Green also stated whether enactment of the anti-labor legislation would serve to promote unity between the AFL and the CIO. He said:

"Undoubtedly another conference seeking organic unity between the American Federation of Labor and the CIO will be held soon, although no date has been set yet. The need for unity has been underscored by the enactment of this legislation. It has created a growing, and rapidly expanding sentiment among the membership of both organizations for the cementing of a united labor movement. I hope that this sentiment will grow sufficiently enough to vanquish the enemies of labor and reverse the reactionary trend."

In the statement he issued at a White House press conference, President Truman made it clear that he expected employers not to take unfair advantage of the broad license granted them under the new law. Although he addressed his statement to labor and management alike, its purpose was evident when he said:

"Neither management nor labor will achieve any long-range benefit by seeking to use the provisions of this Act to gain unfair advantage or to sustain arbitrary attitudes. It is the interest of both to maintain steady production at fair wages while the effect of the new Act is being tested by experience."

The first test appeared to be shaping up in the coal fields where hundreds of thousands of miners refused to work in mines where critical shortages could not attribute to the slowdown in production. The coal miners hung up signs reading:

"Let the Senators Dig Coal!"

Despite advance promises, even the sponsors of the new law such as Senator Robert A. Taft, Republican Chairman of the Senate Labor Committee, agreeing with the new law's purposes should resign.

Gerhard Casper, general counsel of the NLRB, headed by Paul Herzog, resigned his post because of "grave doubts" that the law, enacted despite a Presidential veto, would work.

The NLRB statement pledging fair administration of the new act was made public less than 24 hours after Republican warnings that executive agencies, particularly the NLRB, might attempt to "sabotage" the law through lax administration.

The statement made it clear that the act is "the law of the land," and that "the people's representatives having spoken, the debate is over so far as this board is concerned."

"The Congress has not only decided the policy issues, but has instructed the effectuation of much of the new policy to the National Labor Relations Board," the statement said. "All who accept that trust must do so with single-minded purpose to carry out the Congressional intent."

## ILGWU Brands Soviet Foreign Policy 'Most Serious Threat' to World Peace

Cleveland.—The convention of the International Ladies Garment Workers Union adopted a resolution branding Soviet foreign policy as "the most acute threat to world peace." Only three of the convention's 900 delegates voted against the resolution.

The resolution urged that trade union representatives be drawn from the American diplomatic corps as one means of insuring that our foreign policy would be free of any taint of Imperialism.

The convention's foreign - policy declaration accused Russia of following an "imperialist" and "expansionist" course in its relations with smaller nations, of maintaining a world-wide fifth column and of undermining the prestige and authority of the United Nations. It backed the Baruch plan for the international control of energy and hailed the granting of independence to the Philippines by India and Burma as signs that the United States and Great Britain were putting aside imperialism.

After the resolution had been adopted David Dubinsky, president, chided delegates from two Los Angeles locals who had spoken from the floor in opposition to the statement. The locals had submitted resolutions condemning the Truman Doctrine and opposing aid to Greece and Turkey.

Mr. Dubinsky said both Los Angeles resolutions had been written by "Communist party and left wing" ILGWU members. He charged further that the Los Angeles and Los Angeles delegates to rise in support of their resolutions was based on outside orders, rather than on a desire to express dissent in the convention.

"I expect our delegates will take instructions only from the members—and nowhere else," Mr. Dubinsky declared.

On the recommendation of its international executive committee, headed by Israel Feinberg of New York, the convention voted to expel members of the Stratton bill to permit the entry into the U.S. of 400,000 displaced persons during the next four years.

## National Planning Association Will Survey Causes of Industrial Peace

Washington, D. C.—The National Planning Association announced the formation of a study into "the causes of industrial peace under collective bargaining."

The NPA, which is composed of leaders in agriculture, labor, business, and labor, will survey the labor-management relations of the past fifteen firms and their unions which have experienced successful and peaceful industrial relations.

The project will be under the direction of two special committees composed of both NPA members and non-members. The first of these will be a Sponsorship Committee composed of forty national business and labor leaders. This committee will be responsible for the broad policy questions raised by the study. A Technician Advisory Committee, composed of twenty-six specialists in the field of labor-management relations, will coordinate research activity.

H. Christian Sonne, Chairman of the Board of Trustees of the National Planning Association, discussed NPA's interest in this work: "The project is designed to shift the accent from the negative aspects of industrial controversy to the positive and constructive results which flow from peaceful experience. Mutually satisfactory and profitable relations are seldom heard of in the public press except when they cease where management and labor are at their worst. It is the ways that make the headlines.

"The project would hope to discover and publicize desirable practices and techniques which could be used by firms and unions that have not experienced the unusual relations of those surveyed.

"Top labor representatives of industry and labor will be invited to serve on the Sponsorship Committee. We feel that participation by these national leaders in this work will be of great significance in assuring competent and impartial findings and their wide public acceptance and use throughout the country."